

REMARKS

Claim 17 is pending in this application. Claim 16 has been canceled and claim 17 has been amended.

Non-Compliant Amendment

The Office Communication dated February 11, 2004 indicates that the Amendment filed on November 4, 2003 is considered non-compliant because claim 17 is improperly marked up.

Accordingly, the amendments to claims have been corrected and are resubmitted herewith.

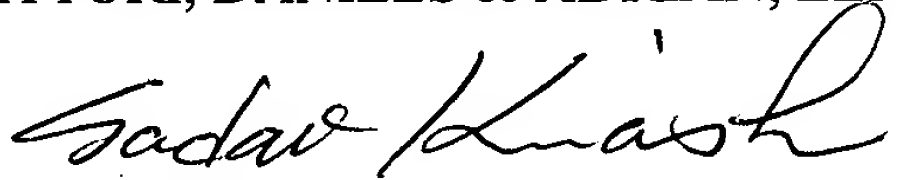
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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